永遠守護妳

8

赤石路代

＊少コミCheese!フラワーコミックス＊

永遠守護妳

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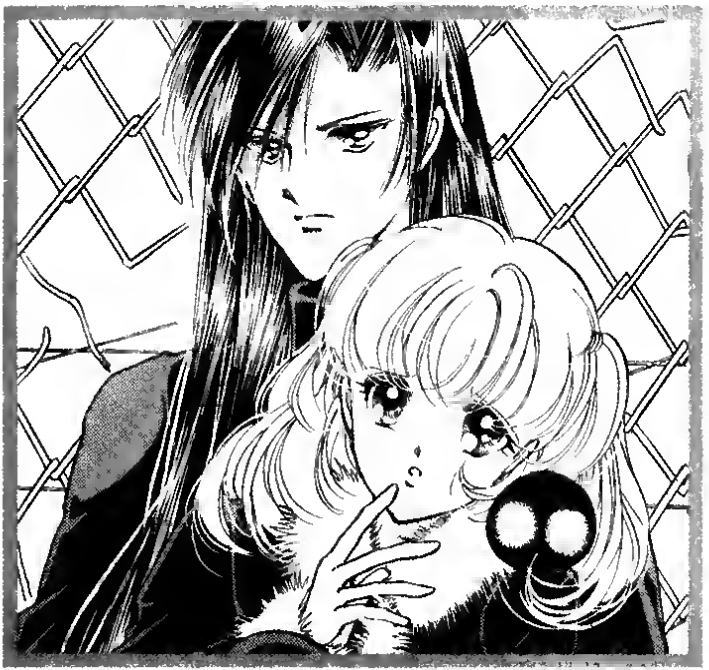

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永遠守護妳

永遠守護妳 8

Kosumo Koganehara, a young 17-year-old girl, was able to receive a heart transplant when priestess Himiko died. Kosumo possesses a strange power.
Hitsugi, a young man whose mission is to watch over the 99th Himiko priestess

* SUMMARY *

Kosumo Koganehara, a 17-year-old girl who underwent a heart transplant in New York, returns to Japan. A young man introduces himself to her as Hitsugi. He informs her that she received the heart of the high priestess Himiko and that his mission is to protect her. Himiko is the priestess with the greatest power in Japan and her life has been interlocked with the politics of this country for generations. Kosumo, who received this woman's heart, now has strange powers. The God Tokoyo no Kami, whose goal is to destroy the world, takes advantage of the kamis' anger at being neglected by the people and rallies them to his cause.

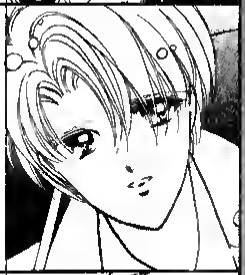
He provokes calamities in many places and undertakes to defy Kosumo and her friends. But in the middle of battle, the blood of Susanoo, the Destroyer God residing within Hitsugi, awakens. Tokoyo no Kami then resurrects through the body of Azumi. By her side is Hitsugi's body, the vessel Susanoo took possession of. Kosumo is left facing her enemies alone. How will she manage?

Azumi

Mizuki's little sister who died. Tokoyo no Kami could come back by using her body.

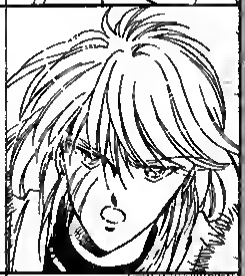
Mizuki Kurahashi

Tegusu temple priest. He has been in love with Kosumo since the day he met her as a child.



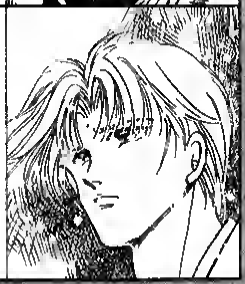
Tenro Kagesami

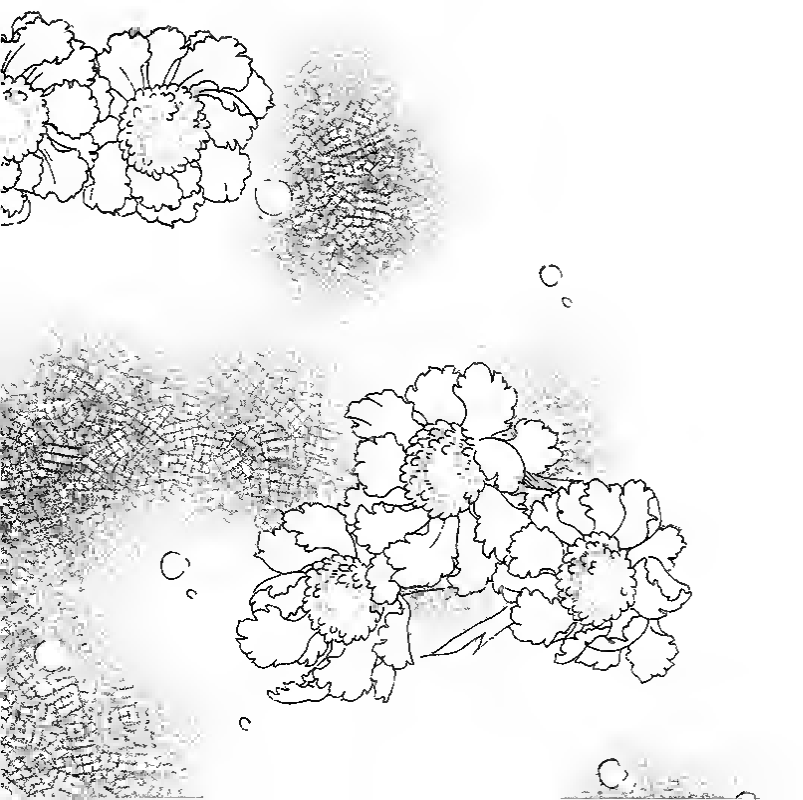
He swore his loyalty to the 98th Himiko. He's the priest of the Magami temple, which honors the god Ookami.



Hisho

Protector of the 97th himiko (now deceased) According to the previous priestess' last wishes, he is to protect Kosumo from now on.





TAKE ME INTO YOUR ARMS
I'M YOUR MATE...
MY KING...

I HAVE THE FEELING THAT I HAVE KNOWN YOU FOR A VERY LONG TIME .
WE COME FROM THE SAME LAND ..
KING OF THE LAND OF YOMI... SUSANOO... MY NAME IS TOKOYO NO KAMI .
LITTLE AND BIG KAMIS ARE ALL AWAITING YOU.
HEAR THE REGRETS OF THOSE OVERRIDEN BY HUMANS.
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TOO...

YOU ARE THE DESTROYER. SO DESTROY!
CLEAN THE COUNTRY OF THOSE TAINTING IT...
SO THAT THIS LAND MAY BE RETURNED TO US.
SUSANOO, GOD OF DESTRUCTION...

EASY...

Hitsugi..
AT THE KYO NO MIYA
I can't believe he's dead..
The warmth in my chest has come back...

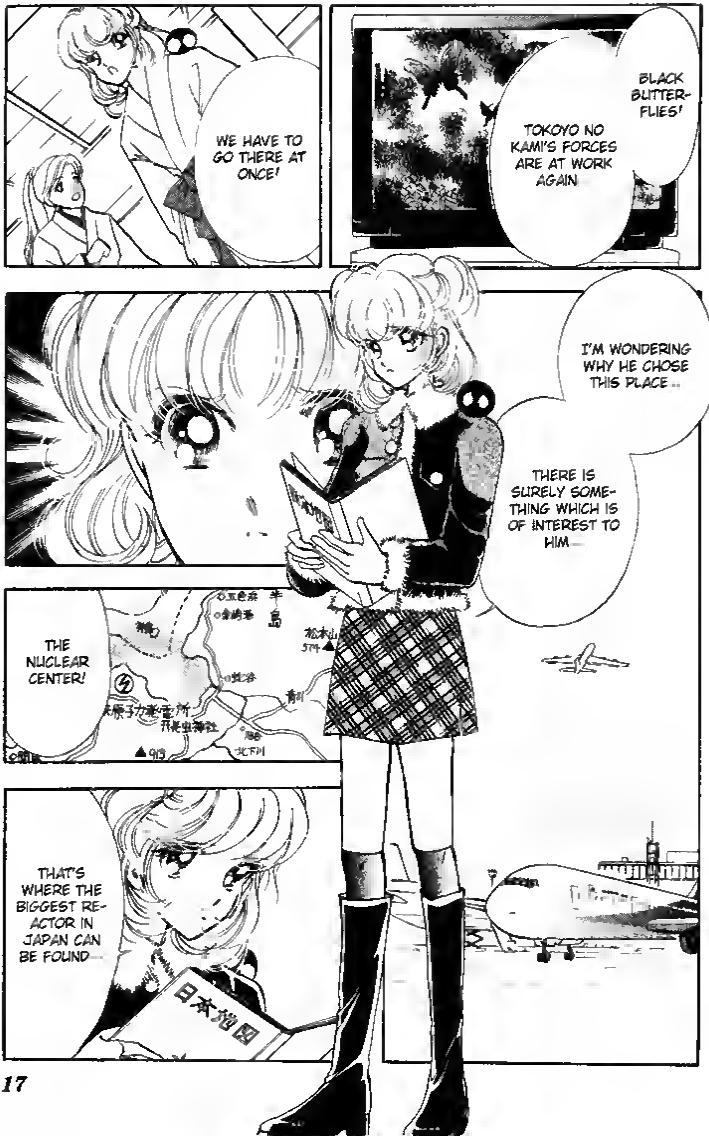
Himiko.
It's your heart warming up like that
You're worried too.
Himiko

KISS ME...
SUSANOO...

АИН...

GREAT KING?
THE MOON... TSUKUYOMI...
A USELESS GOD...
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE MOON IS WATCHING ME
WHAT'S GOING ON?
哼

KOSUMO! KOSUMO!
HAVE A LOOK AT THE NEWS!
WHAT?
THERE IS ANOTHER CATAS-TROPHE COMING UP!
WE ARE NOW IN M...HAMA WHERE A LANDSLIDE CAUSED A TRAGIC ACCIDENT.
WHAT...?!
OH, LOOK!


WE HAVE TO GO THERE AT ONCE!
BLACK BUTTERFLIES!
TOKOYO NO KAMI'S FORCES ARE AT WORK AGAIN
I'M WONDERING WHY HE CHOSE THIS PLACE...
THERE IS SURELY SOMETHING WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO HIM...
THE NUCLEAR CENTER!
THAT'S WHERE THE BIGGEST REACTOR IN JAPAN CAN BE FOUND...
日本地図

..that would be terrible for Japan and even for the whole world.
If an accident similar to Chernobyl were to happen
SINCE THE LAND-SLIDE, THE WESTERN PART OF THE CITY HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF ELECTRICITY
THE FIRES ARE NOT UNDER CONTROL YET
In the smoke...
IT CAN'T BE..?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
No, I must have been dreaming...

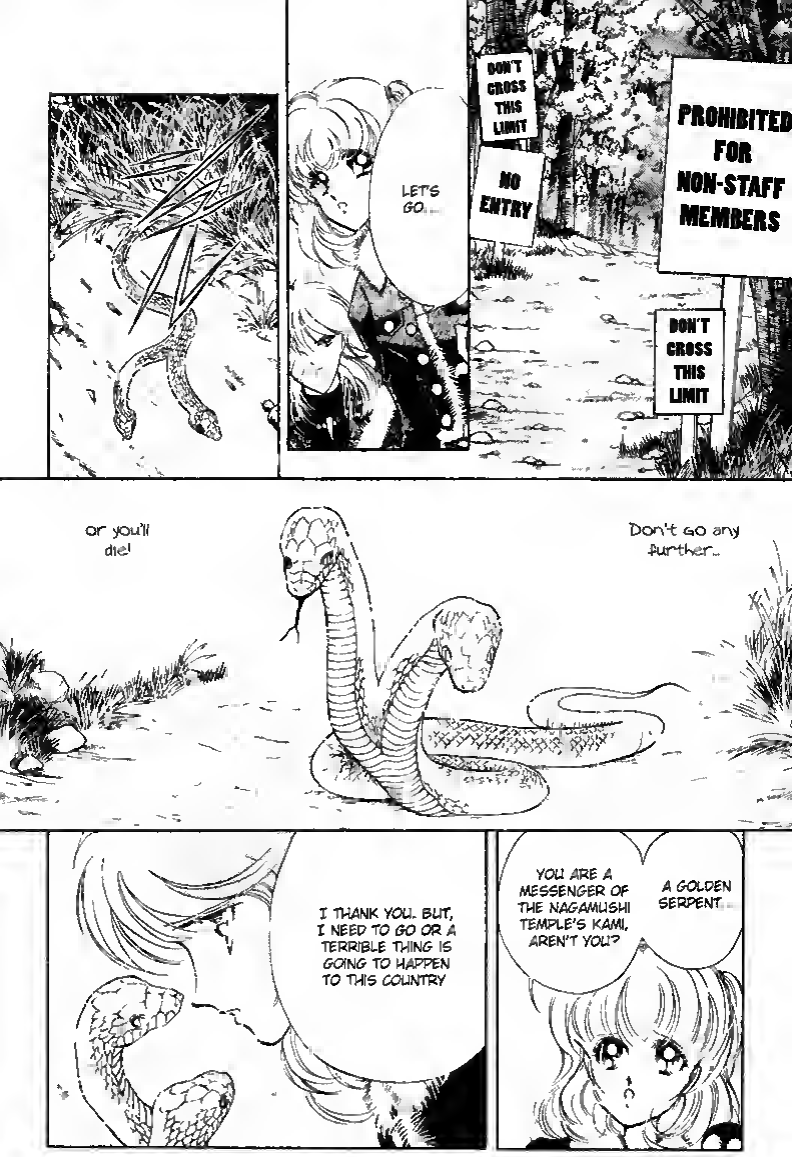
However...
I could swear to have seen Hitsugi!
TENRO!
KOSUMO!
I'M HERE AT HIRAGI'S REQUEST, THE PRIEST-ESS OF NA-GAMUSHI TEMPLE.
UNTIL NOW, SHE ALWAYS SUCCEEDED IN CALMING DOWN THE KAMIS IN THE REGION, BUT.

WHAT IS IT?
SHE FAINTED?
YESTERDAY, SHE EXHAUSTED ALL OF HER POWERS AND FAINTED. THEN, THE LANDSLIDE TOOK PLACE.
AT NAGAMUSHI TEMPLE
THE KAMIS OF THIS REGION ARE REALLY FURIOUS.
THE NAGAMUSHI ARE A VARIETY OF SNAKES.
THEY ATTACKED YOU THE OTHER DAY IN KYOTO. HIRAGI IS CAPABLE OF GENERATING THEM.
WHAT?!
THE ONES OF EARTH, MOUNTAINS, OR WATER... ARE ALL MAD.

HIMIKO-SAMA, RYUKA HIRAGI IS WAITING FOR YOU.
HMM...
FORGIVE ME, IT'S A PRIESTESS WHO WAS VERY LOYAL TO THE 99TH HIMIKO
I'M HAPPY YOU WERE ABLE TO APPEASE THE KAMI OF MOUNT FUJI.
I'D LIKE YOUR HELP HERE TOO...
HELLO, RYUKA HIRAGI...
BECAUSE THE GODS ARE ANGRY...
LOOK OVER THERE...
?
HELLO, HIMIKO-SAMA...

OH!!
EVERYTHING STARTED AT THE MOUNTAIN OVER THERE.
THOSE ARE DEFORMED ANIMALS WHICH WERE BROUGHT IN BY THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LOCAL DEITIES

I UNDERSTAND. COUNT ON ME, RYUKA...
I...
RYUKA-SAMA! YOU HAVE TO GET SOME REST!
OH...
HIMIKO-SAMA
THANK YOU...
DID YOU SEE THIS?


LET'S GO...
DON'T CROSS THIS LIMIT
NO ENTRY
PROHIBITED FOR NON-STAFF MEMBERS
DON'T CROSS THIS LIMIT
Don't go any further...
or you'll die!
I THANK YOU. BUT, I NEED TO GO OR A TERRIBLE THING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THIS COUNTRY
YOU ARE A MESSENGER OF THE NAGAMUSHI TEMPLE'S KAMI, AREN'T YOU?
A GOLDEN SERPENT...

IT LOOKS LIKE A WARE-HOUSE FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE.
IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT'S THIS?
PROHIBITED ENTRY
PROHIBITED ENTRY
She'll help people risking her life?
It's be-cause of people like her that we can't abandon them.
BECAUSE OF A RADIOACTIVE LEAK?
SO THE ANI-MALS ARE DEFORMED..
All this region is contami-nated.
The Gods of earth, moun-tains, and water are angry.

IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS HERE!
WELL... WHAT'S WITH THIS FOG ANYWAY?
SO THE LANDSLIDE WAS CAUSED BY THEIR IRRITAION
ARE WE IN A RADIOACTIVE ZONE? KOSUMO, WE HAVE TO HURRY AND LEAVE!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
...THAT YOU HAD CONTROL OVER OTHER GODS
THE NAGAMUSHI OF THE TEMPLE WILL PROTECT THIS EARTH WITH YOU 'TILL THE END?

WHO ARE YOU?
AZUMI...
SOMEONE MUCH STRONGER THAN YOU ARE

WELL, YES. IT'S ME...
MIZUKI'S SISTER?
AZUMI...? MIZUKI'S LITTLE SISTER?!
I'M TOKOYO NO KAMI'S PRIESTESS.
THE LAND OF YOMI IS OURS!!
AND SOON THIS WORLD WILL BE TOO
RIGHT, GREAT KING?
OURS??

Hitsugi!

HE DISAP-
PEARED ON
MOUNT FUJI...
BUT... HE
IS ALIVE!
WHAT'S THIS
GUY DOING
WITH TOKOYO
NO KAMI?
微笑
HITSUGI!
KOSUMO!
HITSUGI!
!!!

WATCH OUT!!

TENRO!
OUCH...
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
DON'T YOU RECOG-NIZE ME?
HAHAHAHA!
FORGET ABOUT IT! LET'S TAKE OFF!
TENRO...

KYAAAA!
GREAT KING!
OH, MY GREAT KING

HITSUGI, LOOK AT ME!!
THAT'S ENOUGH! GET ON!

*緊抱
TENRO, YOU ARE BLEEDING ALOT!
IT'S JUST A GRAZE..
I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE LIKE HISHO!
IKUTAMA

HISHO IS DEAD?
YES ON MOUNT FUJI
SHUT IT!
THAT MEANS NOBODY IS LEFT TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY?!
TENRO!!
I LIKE IT WHEN YOU UTTER MY NAME...

嗶
嗶
TENRO!!
Why..
Hitsugi, why?!

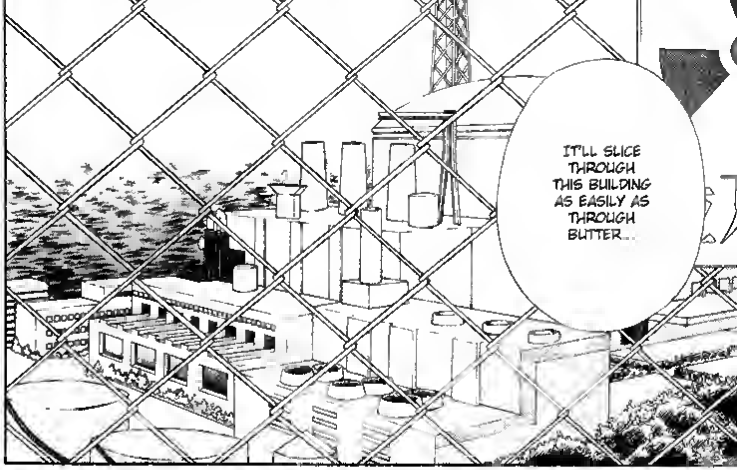
Susanoo is the God of the Land of the Dead.
Hisho warned me...
Surely the God resembling Tokoyo no Kami the most...

They were kissing...

Hitsugi!

He kissed someone else before my very eyes...!
And he wanted to kill me.

YOUR SWORD RELENTED AND BROKE
YOU HAVE TOO MUCH POWER
A COMMON SWORD JUST WON'T DO.
CHIPPED...
IF YOU WANT A SWORD WORTHY OF A KING, GET KUSANAGI AT THE ATSUTA TEMPLE
A DIVINE SWORD COULD DESTROY THIS
GET IT.
WILL I NEED IT?


IT'LL SLICE THROUGH THIS BUILDING AS EASILY AS THROUGH BUTTER...

I'M GOING TO GIVE THE MASTER OF INUGAMIS THE COUP DE GRACE.
WHILE YOU'RE AWAY...

嗶嗶
嗶
城北病院

Atsuta Temple?
WHERE SUDDENLY A TORNADO COLLIDED HEAD-ON
NAGOYA, LIVE FROM ATSUTA TEMPLE
The place where one of the three divine treasures is kept..
The Kusanagi Sword
Hitsugi went out to take it..!

By using it...
he'll lead this world to the Land of Yomi!

KYAAAAH!
Another landslide!

TENRO, WAKE UP!
I CAN'T FIGHT ON MY OWN!
THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS NEED TO TAKE OVER!
WHAT CAN I DO?
I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST HITSUGI?!
SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT TO DO—

嚓
HIMIKO!
DIE...

AZUMI

This is the last volume. Thanks to everyone who has followed my story until now. I had a lot of fun setting up so many kamis. They say Japan is the country of 8,000,000 deities...even if many were imported from abroad. I have the feeling that the Japanese deities are still growing in number.

I heard that the philosophy of Yin and Yang were in vogue and I tried to include this aspect of ancient Shintoism in this manga. The thought occured after the book's release, but Himiko is every bit an "Itsuki no Miya". A title given to single imperial princesses who become high priestesses and serve the Goddess in the great Ise Temple. Since every one of them had to remain pure, saddness reigned. There were many Itsuki no Miya.

I studied a bit of Japan's history and I made use of it in this manga. (Just a bit).

Well. Now I'm going to study the history of Christianity...No. I'm kidding. I would probably repeat myself and I have no reason to specialize in Religious Studies...

少女系列
TONG LI
夢幻・愛情 日本小學館獨家授權香港中文版

赤石路代
譯者 楊雅玲

永遠守護妳

8

Towa Kamo Shirenai

by Michiyo Akaishi

Volume 6.5 chapter 6.1

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Proofreader: Recalcitrant

Editor: katana1765

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Die, Himiko!

KH

MASTER OF THE INUGAMIS. YOU ARE STILL ALIVE
Tenru
MAGAMI-SAMA! TENRU NEEDS YOU!!
GO TO HELL!

WHAT...?
WHY?! YOU ARE TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT BY HUMANS. WHY WOULD YOU DEFEND THEM, OOKAMI!
OH!
GREAT MAGAMI!

TOO BAD FOR YOU!
I'm here for someone who needs me
I have to divert Azumi towards me
Magami-sama will protect Tenrū
Some who hasn't forgot-ten about me
I only have a piece of the Mirror of the Deep with me. what to do?!
I brought the Ise mirror, but I left it at the Nagamushi Temple.
喀

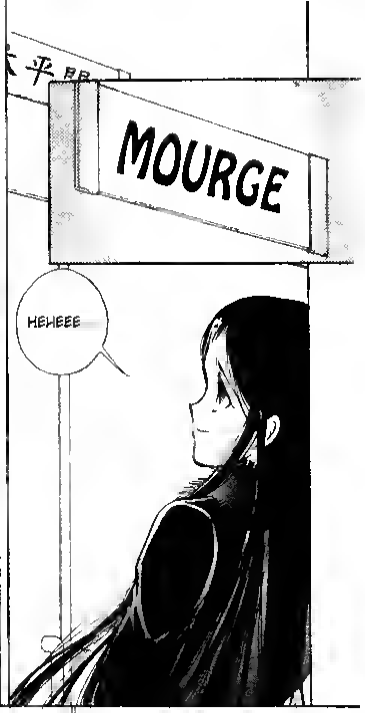
Hm? he isn't coming?
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND A THING, HIMIKO?
RAIJIN, GOD OF STORM, DE-SCEND UPON ME!
TOOTSU-KAMI
EMITAMAE
NOW THAT THE PROTECTORS OF THE NAGAMUSHI TEMPLE HAVE LOST, NO GOD IS LEFT ON YOUR SIDE!
THIS REGION IS ALREADY MINE.
What am I going to do if I can't call upon the kamis anymore?!
but..!

THE ONLY OPTION LEFT FOR YOU IS TO DIE NOW...
AH!
WHAT'S THAT!?
THANK YOU, MIRROR...

＊滴嗒
AH NOOO...
＊滴嗒
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS...
＊緊抱
I'LL KILL YOU HIMIKO!!

喀嚓
喀嚓
OH, NO! THE DOOR CLOSED AND CAN ONLY BE OPENED FROM OUTSIDE!
喀吱
HERE

ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND OF THE DEAD ARE MY SLAVES


MOURGE
HEHEEE

＊提著
喀嗦
喀嗦
喀嗦
THAT'S IT
I'M ALMOST
THERE..

This world will soon belong to me
靈安室
DIE HIMIKO!
The light won't be able to reach this town. Darkness is going to engulf it
The current world will become Tokoyo's world!
And then..

Funeranium
NANU-AMIDA-BUTSU
NAMUAM IDA
WHAT...?
THE NOISE IS COMING FROM INSIDE THE COFFIN.

Ah-men-my Ukh, Ukh-er-
*空洞
*啪嚓
*啪嚓啪嚓
KYAAAAAH!
THE THE DEAD ARE WALKING ?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BUT !

Who did this?!
It's Azumi
AAAAAAH!
It's
The frontier between our two countries has disappeared?!
Does it mean
We're going to be controlled by Tokoyo no kami?

INUGAMI! HELP
NO! KHH..
INUG
Hel
*咕咕
*吱

GOODNESS! YOU GOT STRONGER IN ORDER TO HELP ME?!
抓住
I INUGAMI...?!
*哼嗚.
BIG BROTHER!
AZUMI!
哆
哆
HOSPITAL

"SHE"...?
YES
SHE HURT ME PRETTY BAD!
HOW ARE YOU? ARE YOU INJURED?
HIMIKO! BUT SHE'S IN THERE, WELL AND TRULY DEAD...
SHE WAS CAUGHT BY THE LIVING DEAD.
WHAT?!

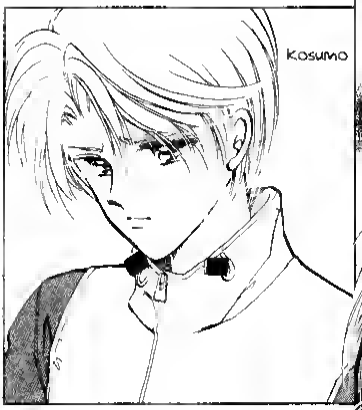
SHE'S NOT HERE!
PHEW
SHE RAN AWAY! THAT BITCH
WHAT?
AZUMI! I WONDER WHAT YOU WERE DOING IN SUCH A PLACE! WE HAVE TO GO BACK HOME NOW!
HOME? FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
WELL, TO LIVE AN ORDINARY LIFE. WHAT A QUESTION! TO GO TO SCHOOL OR THE MOVIES - THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
TOKOYO NO KAMI CAN FINALLY TAKE CONTROL OVER THIS COUNTRY!
No It's not her
COME ON! THE KING OF THE LAND OF YOMI IS HERE!
LOOK!
AZUMI!
LOOK MUZUKI!!
And that's

The God of Death reincarnated.
HITSUGI!

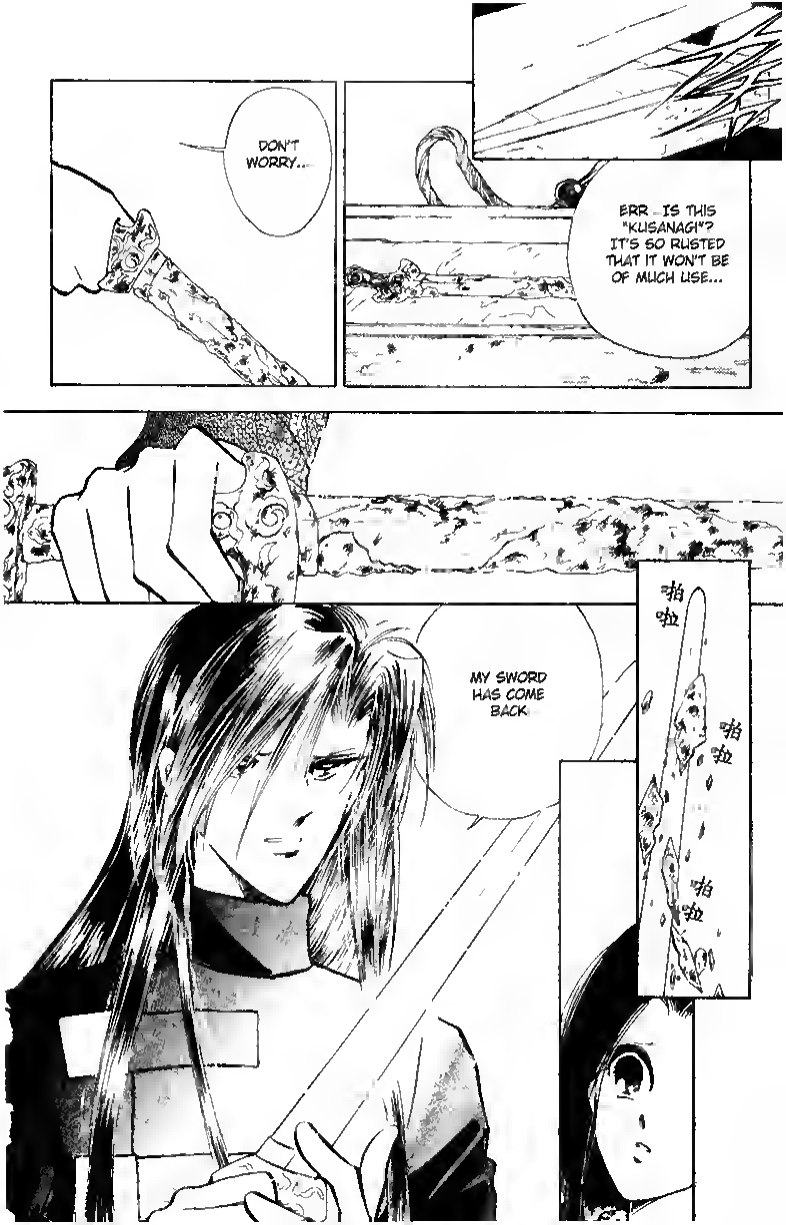
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO KOSUMO?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
He lost his memory?!
YOU LET KOSUMO DOWN TO ALLY YOURSELF WITH TOKOYO NO KAMI?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MIZUKI?
HE'S MINE.
HE'S MY KING.

AZUMI!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
IT'S GONNA BE DANGEROUS HERE
SEE YOU LATER! YOU'D BETTER LEAVE THIS CITY, YOU KNOW!
Susanoo took control of Hitsugi!
IF YOU STAND IN OUR WAY, YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.
As long as Hitsugi's memory hasn't come back...
Kousmo...


Kosumo

She's alone, but where?

Susanoo will continue to tread down this Earth.


DON'T WORRY...
ERR - IS THIS "KUSANAGI"? IT'S SO RUSTED THAT IT WON'T BE OF MUCH USE...
啪啦
啪啦
啪啦
MY SWORD HAS COME BACK

MY KING!
HELP!!
I have to get the Yata No Kagami!!
The mirror...
No kami will come to my aid... but I'll give them a hand anyway!

The living dead are going to be found in profusion excess soon and this town will ressemble to the Land of Yomi!
HURRY AND FLEE! EVEN IF YOU SLAUGHTER HIM, HE'LL GET UP AND CONTINUE PURSUING YOU!
LET'S HURRY, INUGAMI.
Only Amaterasu's light is able to check this darkness!
The Yata no kagami will enable me to make it come to earth.

We have to take this town from Takoyo no kami
WHAT?
I FEEL A DIVINE RECEP-TACLE...
WHAT? NEAR HERE?
IT'S AMATERASU'S MIRROR!

THEY WANT AMATERASU TO INTERVENE?!
WE CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS!
PHEW THE TEMPLE IS WHOLE
I SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO CALL UPON AMATERASU IN THE SACRED PRECINCT.
!

IT'S KUSANAGI!!
HITSUGI!
MH...
THIS SWORD ...!
For pity's sake
Let this only be a bad dream!

NEXT TIME, I'LL PROTECT YOU AT THE RISK OF MY LIFE...
I...
I WON'T LEAVE YOU EVER AGAIN...

IT'S ME!
HITSUGI!!

GREAT KING!!
MITSUKI?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, HITSUGI! RISE FROM YOUR TORPORST.IPOR!
THE GIRL YOU LOVE IS STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU AND YOU DARE POINT A SWORD AT HER!

STOP IT, MIZUKI! WHY ARE YOU GETTING IN OUR WAY?
REMEMBER! SHE RISKED HER LIFE FOR YOU! AND THAT'S HOW YOU PAY HER BACK?
AAH!
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROTECTING ME UNTIL NOW...
SO WHY?!

FORGET IT, KOSUMO. DON'T STAIN YOUR HANDS WITH MY BLOOD.
MIZUKI... WE HAVE TO STOP THE BLEEDING!
KOSUMO ...
YOUR BLOOD IS NOT IMPURE!
BIG BROTHER!
THERE IS NO REASON FOR IT TO BE SO!

AZUMI...
I WAS MISTAKEN.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE RESURRECTED YOU!
WHAT...?
THE ONE WHO CAME BACK TO LIFE IS NOT THE PERSON I USED TO KNOW...
AZUMI
BECAUSE OF HER?

ADMIT IT!
SHE CHANGED YOU, RIGHT?
BUT YOU HAVE TO MEET DEATH SOONER OR LATER
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M NOT AFRAID TO DIE NOW
IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN'T DESTROY
YOU FEARED DEATH

MIZUKI...
KOSUMO...
I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING...
YOU SEE...
IF I DIE TODAY, IT WOULD BE FOR HER SO I DON'T FEAR IT.
AND TODAY...
I STILL LOVE YOU.

YOU AREN'T AFRAID TO DIE ANYMORE —?

SO DIE!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, MIZUKI!

HITSUGI IF YOU WANT TO LAY A HAND ON HER, YOU'LL NEED TO GO THROUGH ME FIRST
AND THIS TIME, IT'LL BE TILL THE END!

LET THE KING TAKE CARE OF IT!
AZUMI--
PUT YOUR WEAPON DOWN!
Hitsugi!

I'LL KILL THEM.
Hitsugi!
He really intends on killing me!

But of course!
Since the mirror is there!

HURRY AND SEEK REFUGE IN THE TEMPLE!

GO!

MIZUKI!

And now, Mizuki!
No! I don't want any more dead people!
RUN, KOSUMO, RUN!
Oh No..!
Hishu, Tenru..
Himiko..

HITSUGI!

So kill me...

If that is my destiny!!!

WHAT...?
HOW?

COME ON, MIZUKI!
HURRY!
*拉
OH!

MY KING
KUSANAGI DIDN'T OBEY ME ?
WHY?
IT'S HIMIKO
THAT'S THE POWER OF THE ONE CALLED HIMIKO?
GREAT KING!

NO
LET'S DESTROY THE TEMPLE!
AS LONG AS I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS SWORD DIDN'T ATTAIN ITS AIM, IT'LL HAPPEN AGAIN.
IT WON'T WORK.
GREAT KING...
HIMIKO...

In Kyoto, Hitsugi already tried to kill me...
OUCH!
HIS INJURY IS DEEP WE HAVE TO STITCH IT UP
But
he had the Yatsuka no Ken and wasn't aware that it was me...
In Kashima too, it spared me
The sword reacted the same way as this sword today.

He hurt me when he aimed for the God of Kashima I wanted to protect
At that moment, he was wielding the Futsu Mitama no Tsurugi...
And now it's Kusanagi which doesn't obey his orders, although it's Susanoo's own sword?!
The sword didn't work as Hitsugi expected
He directed his attack towards me, but it was deflected
Why??

IT'S HITSUGI WHO STOPPED SUSANOO
MAYBE BUT HE'S STILL IN THERE
DEEP WITHIN SUSANOO
MIZUKI
HITSUGI LOST HIS MEMORY. HE'S UNDER SUSANOO'S INFLUENCE.
STOP
YOU SHOULD NOT TALK
Deep within Susanoo?

The Hitsugi who's trying to protect me is still there?

Hitsugi
- is
about
to kill me!

Towa Kamo Shirenai

by Michiyo Akaishi

Volume 05 chapter 02

Credits:

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Towa Kamo Shirenai

by Michiyo Akaishi

Volume 05 chapter 03

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He told me about it in Izu..!
FROM TIME TO TIME I FEEL THAT DEEP WITHIN ME IS A SIDE OF DARKNESS I DON'T KNOW.
And I answered him...
DON'T WORRY! IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, I WOULD BE BY YOUR SIDE AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE JUST FINE.
YOU WOULD ONLY NEED TO TAKE HOLD OF MY HAND
...TO BE BY MY SIDE.
...touch me and you'll remember...
Whatever might happen...
It was...
...a promise...
＊緊握

...and make him touch my hand
I just need to get near him.
kiss me...
Nuclear (power) station of M...Haruna
1 km
IT'S THIS WAY, MY KING .
LET'S DESTROY THIS STATION AND IT'LL BE TOO LATE...FOR AMATERASU AS WELL AS FOR THE OTHERS.

*攬著
MY KING....
AH...
MY KING?

WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING IS WRONG!
SOMETHING...
ENJOY YOURSELF WITH SOME NICE DESTRUCTIONS...
THE TOWN IS YOURS...
HE'S MINE!
AH, NO!

MY SWORD... WILL IT OBEY ME?
PUT IN ALL YOU HAVE...
USE YOUR SWORD...

SEE?!
THAT'S YOUR
TRUE POWER!

RYUKA-SAMA. YOU SHALL STAY HERE!
IT CAN'T BE! IT STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN OUTSIDE?!
HIMIKO-SAMA!
SUSANOO WILL END UP GOING THERE ANYWAY I'LL WAIT FOR HIM THERE..
BUT IF THEY REACH THE STATION, EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE FOR!

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
I'M GOING TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY.
Kosuma..!

ONCE DEAD, THE SKY, SOIL AND WATER WILL COME BACK TO LIFE
THERE'S STILL A TRACE OF AMATERASU'S LIGHT IN THE HANDS OF THE HUMANS
DESTROY IT AND THIS WORLD WILL BECOME THE LAND OF TOKOYO
LIKE CATERPILLARS WHICH HAS BEEN COOPED UP FOR TOO LONG IN THEIR CHRYSALIS
THOSE ARE
BUTTERFLIES?!

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LIKE CATERPILLARS WHICH HAS BEEN COOPED UP FOR TOO LONG IN THEIR CHRYSALIS
THOSE ARE
BUTTERFLIES?!

!!
NO!!
POOR AZUMI..
*已沒氣已逝
NO! I'M NOT DEAD!
YOU ARE ALREADY DEAD YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS WELL..
I DIDN'T EVEN HAD THE TIME TO LOVE!
BE QUIET!

BUT I FOUND LOVE
WITH MY KING
AZUMI
IT'S YOUR INTENSE DESIRE TO LIVE
WHICH CREATED THE DARKNESS WITHIN YOUR HEART
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE JUST FINE. WE'LL SEE MOM AND DAD AGAIN
DON'T COME NEAR ME!

AND LIVE THERE TOGETHER AND BE HAPPY...
NO!!
I DON'T WANT TO...
...DIE!!

BIG BROTHER...
POOR LITTLE AZUMI...
緊抱
I LOVE YOU, YOU KNOW
*滴嗒嗒嗒

AH...

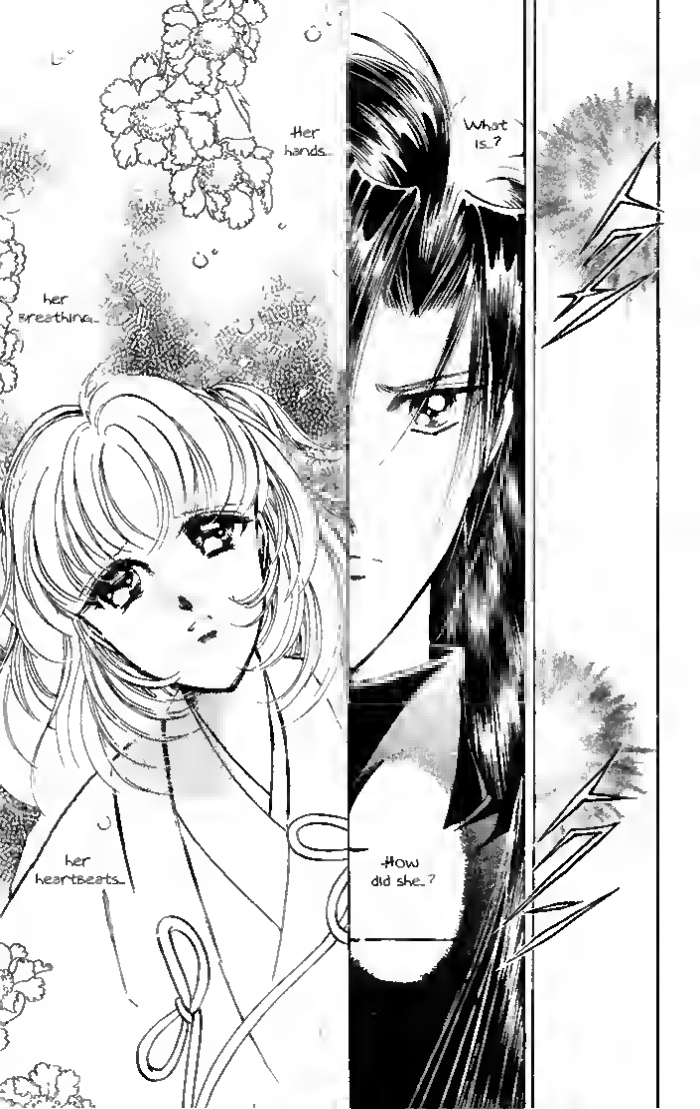
WHY AM I CRYING
WHEN THE LAND OF TOKOYO IS ABOUT TO GAIN ANOTHER INHABITANT?

WHAT'S WITH THOSE TEARS?
WHY?!

HITSUGI
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME
!
I HAVE TO DESTROY THIS BUILDING. MOVE!
NO I WON'T BUDGE
I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE

What was it?
HITSUGI...
She only touched me and...?!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
It seems that it touched something inside me!
HITSUGI!!

My breath...
My hands...
REMEMBER, HITSUGI REMEMBER ME
My lips...


Her hands...
What is...?
her breathing...
her heartbeats...
How did she...?

Hitsugi, it's me.
It's me...
Kh.
Hitsugi!
...and the warmth...
...are invading me?!

OW...
GREAT KING!

NO. DON'T GO!
DON'T LAY YOUR HANDS ON MY KING!
AZUMI...
LET HIM GO! HE BELONGS TO ME!

HITSUGI!
HITSUGI...
NOW YOU ARE GOING TO DIE, HIMIKO!
WITH MY OWN HANDS!

I WILL LOVE YOU...
FOR ALL OF ETERNITY

*視著

Hitsugi!!
N..NOOO...
滴達
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
滴達
*诶啊

PLEASE! FREE HER FROM TOKOYO NO KKAMI!
MIZUKI!
KOSUMO!
THE MIRROR
TOOTSUKAMI.
EMITAMAE.

GREAT GODDESS AMATERASU!
I INVITE YOU TO DESCEND UPON EARTH!

AAAH!
AZUMI!
BIG BROTHER, FORGIVE ME.
AAH...

KOSUMO...
MIZUKI...
THANK YOU AZUMI IS FINALLY... FREE...
KYAAAH!
WELL THIS CORPSE WAS WALKING AND IT COLLAPSED ALL OF SUDDEN

DO YOU THINK IT'S A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION?
A FLASH OF LIGHTNING!
IT'S SO WARM!
WHERE IS THIS LIGHT COMING FROM?
YES, MAGAMI I FEEL IT, TOO...
Tenro
NO, IT'S MORE LIKE A POSITIVE LIGHT...
THE LIGHT HAS COME TO CHASE AWAY DARKNESS...

HITSUGI
DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
THANK YOU, KOSUMO.
YOU WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOG
AND YOU WERE CALLING ME.
YOU RECALLED MY MEMORY
—WITH YOUR WARMTH AND YOUR VOICE
TOKOYO NO KAMI WENT BACK TO HIS GLOOMY WORLD
AS WELL AS AZUMI
TRUE

I FEEL RELIEVED...
I MISSED YOU!
...BUT I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT I'M GOING TO FALL ASLEEP
I'M HERE NOW...
SO, GO TO SLEEP...
YOU REMAIN BY MY SIDE, RIGHT, HITSUGI...

YES, FOR ETERNITY...

STAFF
MICHIYO-AKAISHI
MIHO-SUZUKI
KIYOMI-KANENARI
YASUKO-ITO
MITSUKO-HOSHIKAWA
MINAKO-TAKAHASHI
HIROYA-YAMASHITA

2000 4 28

END

(永遠守護妨)8＊完＊
刊載於少女 COMIC CHEESE 2000年4月-6月號

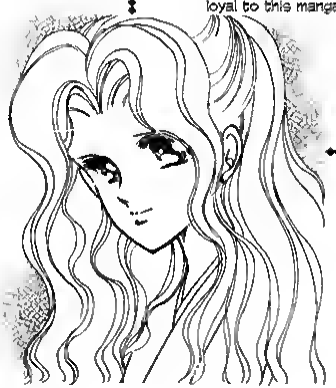
Among you, there are people who read and discover all the details. For example, part of Hyosetsushin's hairdo has changed.—It's true. They look like the waves of the 98th Himiko (I mean the moment where Hisho stopped Hyosetsushin before they went to Mount Fuji.) Touching Hyosetsushin...

You'll find hereafter the story of the 98th Himiko, Hisho and Hyosetsushin. It's because the 98th Himiko existed that Kosumo could be the 100th.

I like that some things in my appendix stories are linked to my work but occur in other places... I also wanted to try drawing stories with other characters, like Tenro or the 99th Himiko...

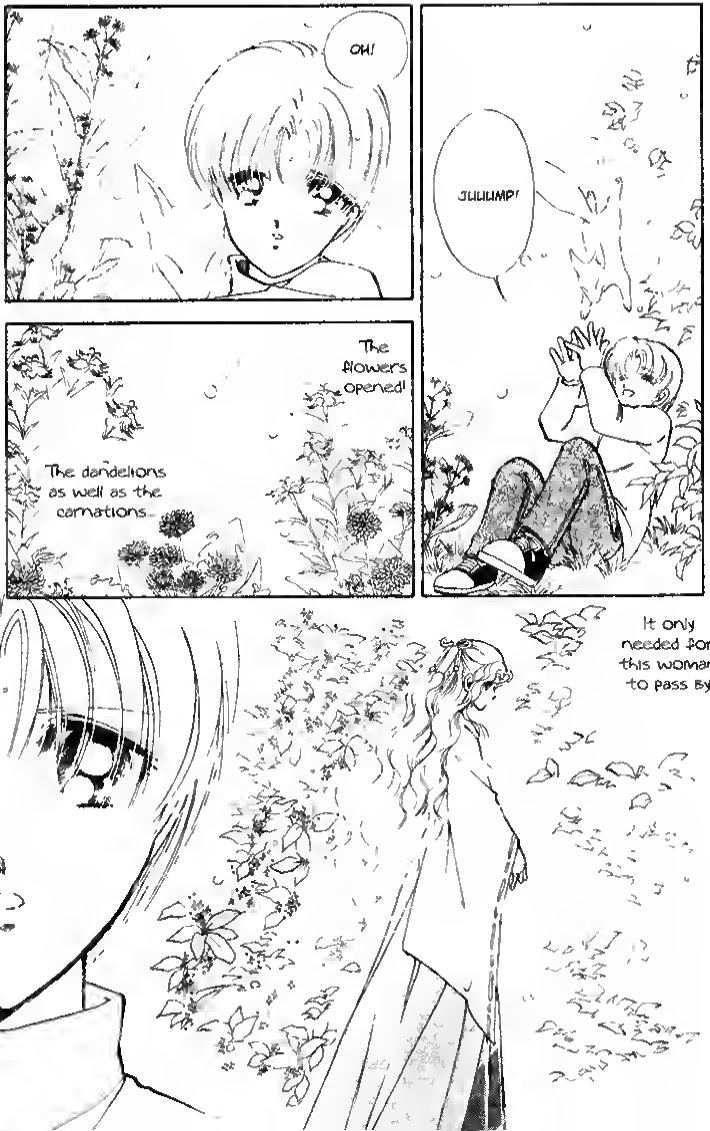
I would have been so happy, if I could have revealed in an appendix story how much the 99th Himiko was a great person! But I leave you alone with "And snow is piling up..."

Thanks for all of you who stayed loyal to this manga till the end!



白雪飄落
的季節

Does sadness accumulate as much as flowers falling to the ground...
...till the day where the heart is blank but still needs to go on watching seasons pass?
Does sadness accumulate as much as snow can...
...till the day the heart whitens and feels nothing anymore?


OH!
JUUUMP!
The flowers opened!
The dandelions as well as the carnations-
It only needed for this woman to pass by

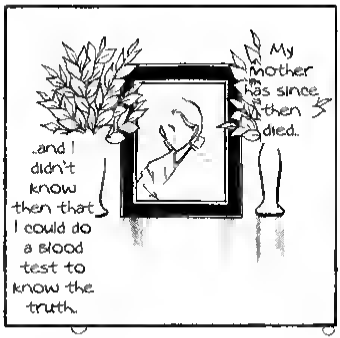
飄
飄
飄
OH!
NO!
YOU SEE IT, DON'T YOU?
YOU CAN SEE THIS MESSENGER OF INARI?
as if they wanted to touch her
- The silver flowers of the sweet-smelling osmanthis started falling at the same time.

KIND OF...
IS IT A KAMI?
THIS... THIS FOX CAME OUT OF THIS WELL AND WE PLAYED TOGETHER
EH?
YOU KNOW THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PROTECTED THIS PLACE...
YOU HAVE A PURE HEART, LITTLE BOY...
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED TO YOU
HI...HIMIKO-SAMA?! FORGIVE ME. I BEG YOU
HIMIKO-SAMA??
KOSHO! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
FATHER?

Wow!
YOU AREN'T WORTHY TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH IN FRONT OF HER!
SHE'S HIMIKO-SAMA, THE HIGHEST PRIESTESS OF JAPAN. THE 98TH IN THIS FUNCTION!
OH YES!
THANKS TO KOSHO THE NOISE IN THIS PLACE STOPPED..
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HIM!
WHAT? THAT BOY IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DONE THIS?
CHECK THAT WELL OVER THERE. YOU'LL FIND A SMALL ALTAR
IT'S KOSHO WHO APPEASED THE TATARIGAMI LIVING THERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
ILLNESS IN THIS ZONE WILL QUIETEN DOWN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE INARI OF THAT ALTAR
HIGH PRIEST! AN ALTAR HAS INDEED BEEN THROWN INTO THE WELL!
AND IT'S AN INARI ALTAR!
TAKE GREAT CARE OF HIM AND RAISE HIM WELL.
THIS CHILD POSSESES THE POWERS OF A PRIEST. HE SEES AND HEARS THE GODS...
Himiko-sama...

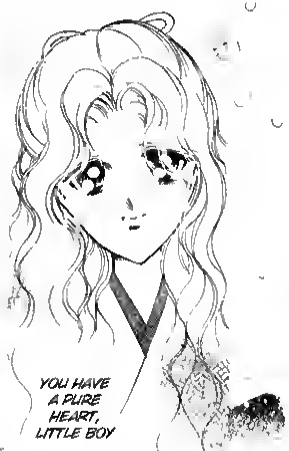
I lived in a very old temple of the region, called Akimiya "the Autumn Temple"
She disappeared as quickly as she appeared
My brothers were being taught in a Shintō school but I went to an ordinary school
It seemed I wasn't my father's son...
SSH, NOT SO LOUD!
WHAT WILL THE HIGH PRIEST DO? WILL HE FOLLOW HER INSTRUCTIONS?
SHE THINKS THAT KOSHO HAS TALENTS AS A PRIEST...
Why?
SHE'S HIMIKO AFTER ALL...

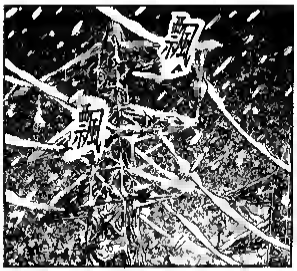


Nevertheless, afterwards, nothing changed in my everyday life.

It was the first time I was told such a thing.

Till the day I reached age 13.




OBSERVATIONS SHOW THAT THE SNOW FALLS HAVE FROM THE START ON
THE SNOW-STORM IS STILL BLOWING WITH VIOLENCE

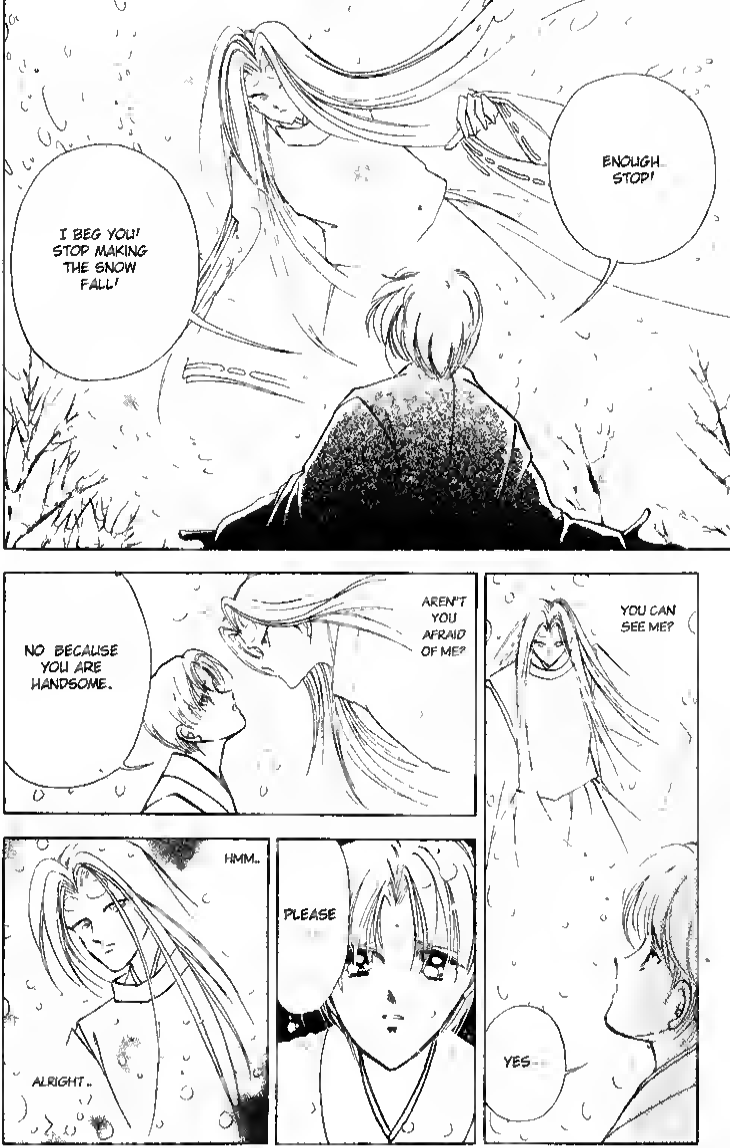
OH, A BLACK OUT!

TAKE THE CANDLES!
I DON'T THINK IT'LL COME BACK QUICKLY—

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
UH!
IT HAS BEEN DOZENS OF YEARS SINCE THE LAKE HAS BEEN FROZEN LIKE THIS!
IT'S THE OMIWATARI!
THOSE ARE THE CREAKINGS OF BREAKING ICE. THEY SAY THAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GODS ARE CROSSING THE LAKE.
DID YOU SEE? IT LOOKS LIKE AN ICE MOUNTAIN!
THE GODS ARE ANGRY...
THOUGH IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME...

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ONE WEEK THAT FATHER IS ALONE IN THE PRAYER PAVILLION!
WITH ALL THE SNOW, NO CAR IS ABLE TO PASS, NO HELICOPTER TO FLY .. THEREFORE HIMIKO-SAMA CAN'T COME
Himiko-sama
HIGH PRIEST!
HE TRIES TO APPEASE THE GODS.
FATHER!
WE NEED TO CALL AN AMBULANCE!
HIGH PRIEST!

Father!
I saw the kami...
That's when...


I BEG YOU! STOP MAKING THE SNOW FALL!
ENOUGH... STOP!
NO BECAUSE YOU ARE HANDSOME.
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF ME?
YOU CAN SEE ME?
HMM..
ALRIGHT..
PLEASE
YES

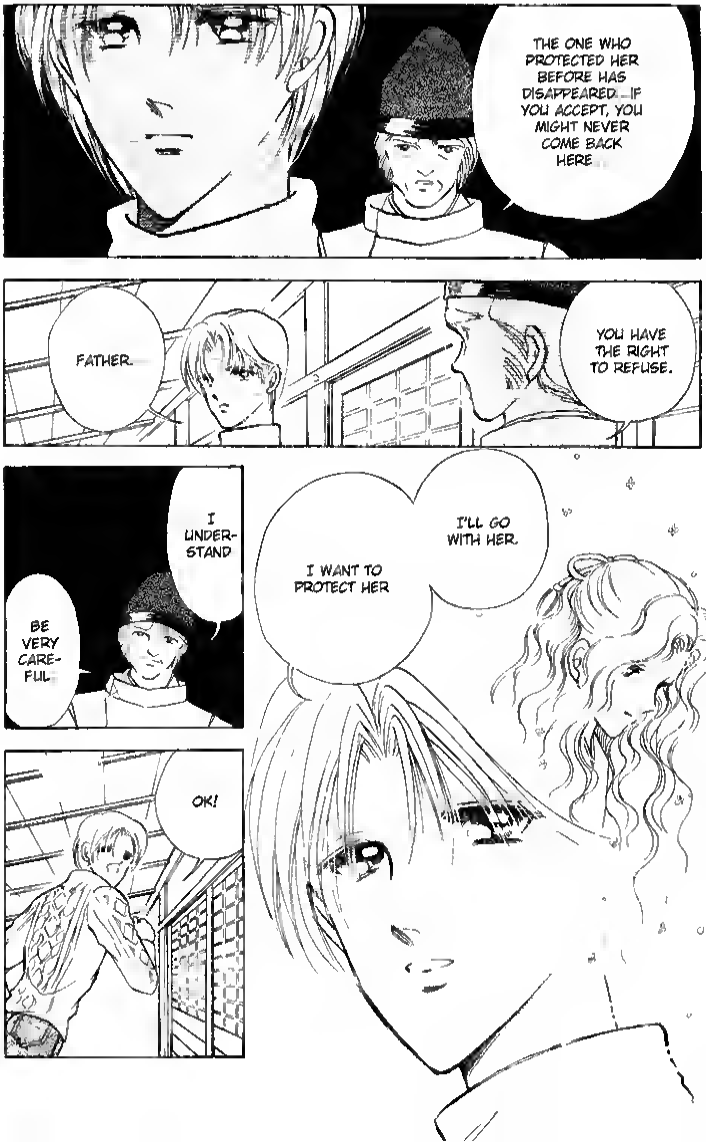
IF YOU BECOME MY PLAYTHING, I'LL STOP THE SNOW...
YOUR... PLAY-THING??
I WANT YOU TO BELONG TO ME.
NO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE.
YOU MEAN IF I DIE?
NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU JUST SAID.
I ACCEPT. I'LL BE YOURS
SO STOP THE SNOW!

*開門
And the storm stopped immediately..
THE PRAYERS OF THE HIGH PRIEST SUCCEEDED
YES. ALL OF SUDDEN EVERYTHING LIGHTENED UP.
I still didn't know then what the kami meant by his "playthings."
HEY, YOU! THIEF. I SAW YOU!
LEAVE IT BE!
MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINES, SON OF A BITCH!
GO TO HELL!
AH!

WAAH!!
HYOSET-SUSHIN!
OUUUCH!!
OOWW
YES BECAUSE YOU ARE MINE.
BUT IT WAS EXCESSIVE!
YOU PRO-TECTED ME..
DIDN'T YOU?

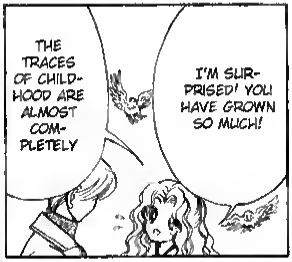
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME? WHY ME?
THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM, AS LONG AS I PROTECT YOU
This kind of incident happened so often.
I was frightened for the first time.
...that when I reached the age of 15, the rumor was well-established

People said that the son of Akimiya Temple was protected by the ice God
KOSHO!!
HIMIKO-SAMA IS ASKING FOR YOU
APPARENTLY SHE CHOSE YOU AS HER PROTECTOR.
HIMIKO-SAMA? SHE WANTS ME?
I want to see her again!!
KOSHO!!

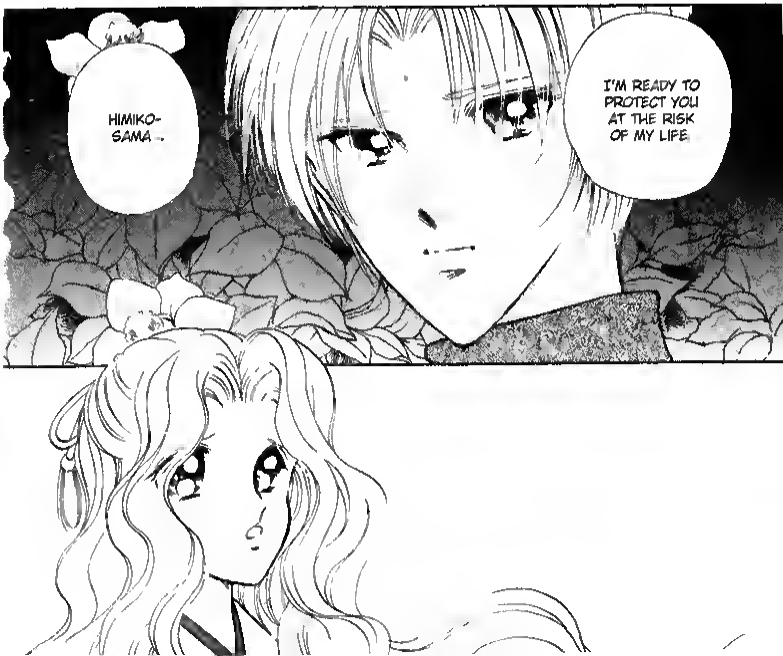

THE ONE WHO PROTECTED HER BEFORE HAS DISAPPEARED... IF YOU ACCEPT, YOU MIGHT NEVER COME BACK HERE...
FATHER.
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE.
I UNDER-STAND
BE VERY CARE-FUL.
I'LL GO WITH HER.
I WANT TO PROTECT HER
OK!

Himiko-sama
MH..?
KOSHO_? IS IT YOU??
YES

PERFECT.


I'M SURPRISED! YOU HAVE GROWN SO MUCH!
THE TRACES OF CHILDHOOD ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY

TRUE I'M NO LONGER A CHILD.


HIMIKO-SAMA...
I'M READY TO PROTECT YOU AT THE RISK OF MY LIFE.

YES
I LIKE IT A LOT
AH... REALLY?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'M TOLD SUCH A THING.
THANK YOU.
A WARM AND GENTLE NAME TO WEAR..
FROM NOW ON YOU'LL BE CALLED...
HISHO!
IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL.
OK.
THE HIMIKO'S PROTECTORS SHALL HAVE A NAME STARTING WITH 日, IN HONOUR OF THE DAYLIGHT STAR.

AT THE HANA NO MIYA, "THE FLOWER TEMPLE"
YOUR ATTACKS ARE TOO WEAK! YOU WON'T KILL SOMEONE WITH THIS!
I HEARD THAT THE PREVIOUS PROTECTOR IS DEAD?
HMM
YOU FARE BETTER THAN HINA, BUT WILL YOU BE MORE USEFUL THAN HIOI?
YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT HIOI? HE OVERESTIMATED HIS ABILITIES TOO MUCH. HE GOT KILLED BY RYUJIN.
RYUJIN, THE DRAGON KAMI?

HINA WAS ANOTHER PROTECTOR?
YES...HE WAS FIRED.
APPARENTLY HE WAS TOO INSISTENT WITH THE HIGH PRIESTESS...
YOU MEAN PROTECTORS ARE FIRED WHEN THEY FALL IN LOVE WITH THE HIMIKOS?
NOT REALLY BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY HIMIKO PRIESTESSES VERY CLOSE TO THEIR PROTECTORS.
IF THEY WERE A NEW ADMIRER, THEY COULD MAYBE GET MARRIED...
OR ELSE IT WOULD BE TOO SAD.
REALLY? IN SPITE OF THEIR STATE AS HIGH PRIESTESS?
THE 97TH HIMIKO REMAINED SINGLE AND SHE'S IN THE BEST OF HEALTH.
SHE GAVE UP HER PLACE TO THE 98TH HIMIKO BECAUSE SHE WAS GETTING OLD.
AAH...

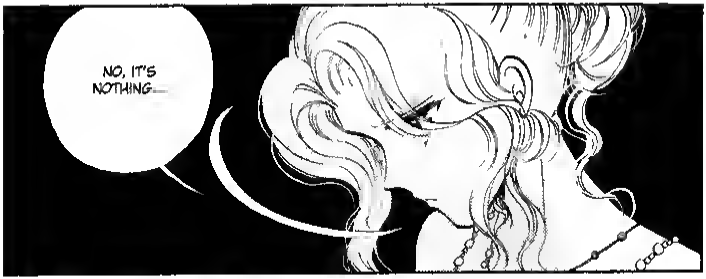
BAH. YOU ARE 10 YEARS YOUNGER THAN THE PRESENT HIMIKO IT DOESN'T REALLY CONCERN YOU
HISHO! I'M GOING OUT. ACCOMPANY ME!
COMING!
NOTHING. YOU ARE...SIMPLY GORGEOUS....
OH...
WHAT IS IT?
笑
THANK YOU

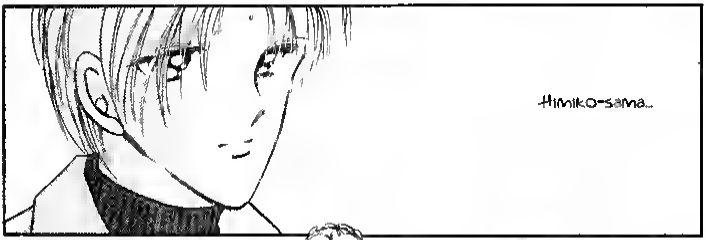
HIMIKO-SAMA, IT'S AN HONOUR TO HAVE YOU HERE
PLEASE GO THROUGH THE ANTECHAMBER
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION.
Who is this guy?
PRIVILEGE OF BEING THE SON OF A LEADING BANKER...
...DINNER IN THE ROYAL SUITE?
If there were a new admirer, they could probably get married...
緊握
Himiko-sama can have...a fiance...?!

HIMIKO-SAMA!!
MAY THE GODS DESCEND UPON ME!
KYAH!!

按
ゲ
ゲ
ゲ
ゲ
HYOSET-SUSHIN!
HIMIKO-SAMA!!
She's not breathing anymore!

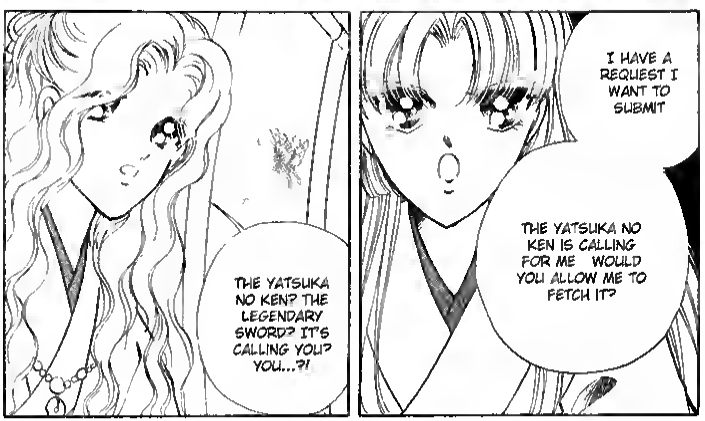
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES... HE REALLY WAS INFECTED...
HISHO...
At last, I can feel her breathing...
A warm breath...
HIS FATHER ASKED ME FOR TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM ON HIM.
REALLY? I THOUGHT HE WAS YOUR BOYFRIEND...
I...
OF COURSE NOT!
ACTUALLY, I...


NO, IT'S NOTHING...


Himiko-sama...

THANK YOU I CAME TO INTRODUCE THIS YOUNG GIRL
THE 97TH HIMIKO-SAMA IS ASKING YOU FOR AN AUDIENCE...
WELCOME

GOOD MORNING, HIMIKO-SAMA.
She has such a radiant aura!
A protector is by her side..
Is she the 99th Himiko?!


I HAVE A REQUEST I WANT TO SUBMIT
THE YATSUKA NO KEN IS CALLING FOR ME WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO FETCH IT?
THE YATSUKA NO KEN? THE LEGENDARY SWORD? IT'S CALLING YOU? YOU...?!

WHY DON'T WE USE IT?
YES. I WANT TO USE ITS POWER FOR YOUR PROTECTION
THIS YOUNG GIRL...
IS THE 99TH HIMIKO, ISN'T SHE?
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO, HITSUGI!
GO AND GET IT...
AND GOOD LUCK!
THAT'S TRUE.
I THINK SO. SHE'S A PRIESTESS ENDOWED WITH EXCEPTIONAL TALENTS...

IT'S SNOWING
IS SADNESS ABLE TO ACCUMULATE AS MUCH AS SNOW CAN?
CAN IT BATHE THE HEART IN ITS WHITENESS SO AS TO TURN IT INSENSIBLE?
MINE IS SO DARK AT THE MOMENT.
I ENVY THIS YOUNG GIRL'S PURITY.
DON'T WORRY SHE'S STILL A 9-YEAR-OLD CHILD
YOU ARE MISTAKEN. AS HIMIKO, HER POWER WILL QUICKLY BECOME GREATER THAN MINE
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO FIND THE YATSUKA NO KEN.

THE DAY WILL COME, WHEN SHE'LL BECOME THE OFFICIAL 99TH HIMIKO
I FEEL SO PITIFUL ..
WHAT HAVE I BEEN UNTIL NOW?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
HIMIKO-SAMA!
HISHO!
AND IF YOU QUIT?

FREE?
...IF YOU ABANDON THE TITLE OF HIMIKO ...
YOU WOULD BE FREE...
I HAVE ALWAYS LIVED AS HIMIKO WITHOUT FRIENDS, WITHOUT A LOVER ...
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE
WHAT IS FREEDOM?
AND WHAT ABOUT ME THEN?

HISHO
YOU ARE NOT ALONE ANYMORE SINCE I'M HERE
I KNOW THAT I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU.
BUT I
HISHO!

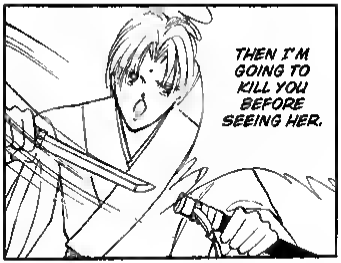
Out of question!

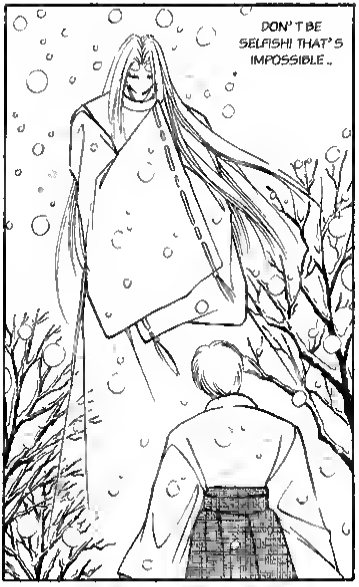
AAH!

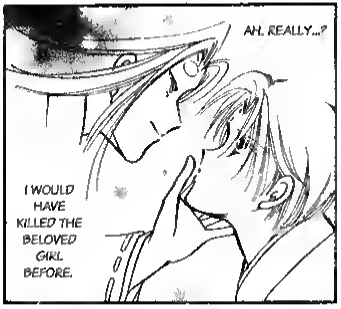
HIMIKO-SAMA !!

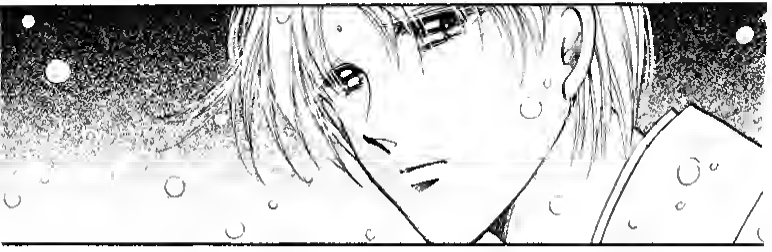
HYOSET-SUSHIN!!
AAAH! HIMIKO-SAMA!!
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
HISHO...
HIMIKO-SAMA...
DON'T TOUCH HER!
HISHO, NEVER COME NEAR HER AGAIN!!

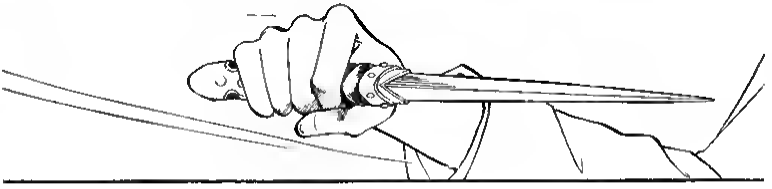
The kami required my heart...
For the first time in my life, I understood...
He would never accept for me to love somebody...
YOU ARE UNDER HYOSETSUSHIN'S INFLUENCE. YOU CAN'T PROTECT HIMIKO-SAMA!
PLEASE...
SHE'S CRYING IN LONELI-NESS...
GIVE ME BACK MY FREEDOM!

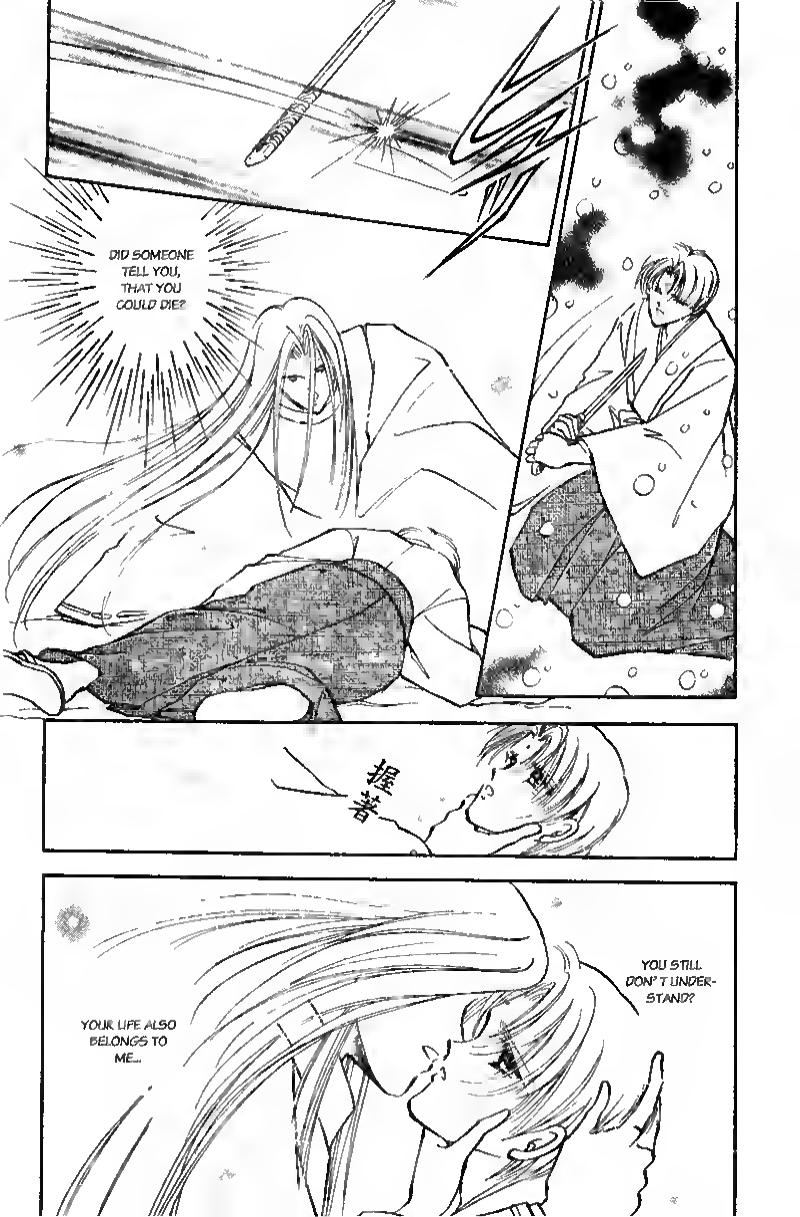

THEN I'M GOING TO KILL YOU BEFORE SEEING HER.


DON'T BE SELFISH! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE..


AH. REALLY...?
I WOULD HAVE KILLED THE BELOVED GIRL BEFORE.






DID SOMEONE TELL YOU, THAT YOU COULD DIE?
握着
YOU STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND?
YOUR LIFE ALSO BELONGS TO ME...

WHY!!
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?
YOU'LL NEVER BE FREE TO DIE...
YOU ARE 10 YEARS YOUNGER THAN THE 98TH HIMIKO-SAMA. IT WAS THOUGHTLESS OF HER
TO BE CHARMED BY YOU
YOU SHALL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.

OH? FLOWERS DESPITE THE SNOW?
They are flying towards her as if they wanted to touch her.
The flowers are blooming on her path

SSH! SHE'S NOT YET THE 99TH HIMIKO!!
BUT THE CORPSE OF THE 98TH HIMIKO-SAMA IS—
THAT'S IT! SHE FOUND IT!
THE 99TH HIMIKO-SAMA FOUND THE YATSUKA NO KEN!!
AT THE YUKI NO MIYA "THE SNOW TEMPLE"
SHE REFUSES ALL TREATMENT. IT'S AS IF SHE CHOSE TO DIE
SHE HAS A SECONDARY CANCER... IT SEEMS SHE HAS ONLY ONE MONTH TO LIVE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE 98TH HIMIKO-SAMA?!
HI-HISHO...!
ERR...
WE HAVE TO TELL HIM, POOR CHAP...IT'S TOO SAD!

STOP IT! IT'S HARD ENOUGH ON HIM ...
BEING SEPARATED FROM YOU MADE HER DESPERATE
HISHO!
THERE'S SO LITTLE LEFT FOR THEM...
IT'S CRUCIAL TO STOP HIM.
HE WENT THERE?
HE KNOWS THAT SHE'S CONDEMNED.
HIMIKO-SAMA!

MAYBE, HYOSETSU-SHIN WILL GRANT THEM SOME TIME TOGETHER...

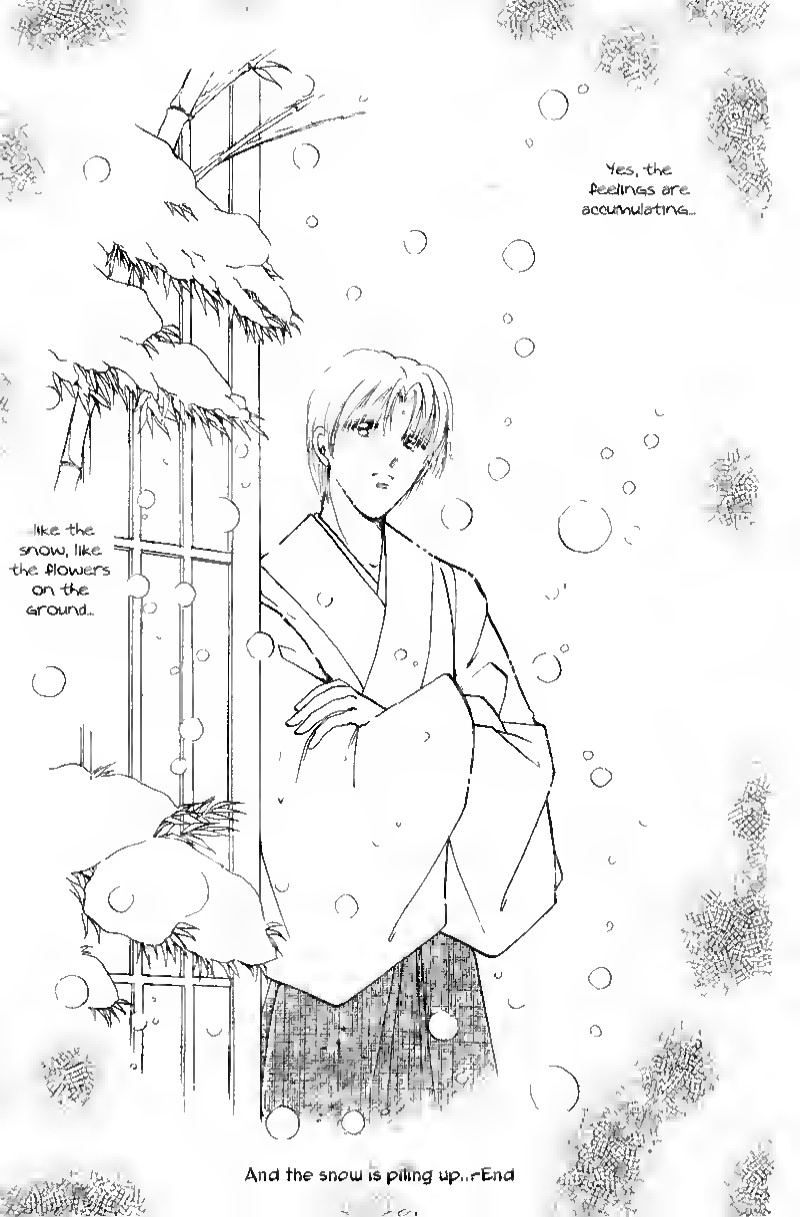
OH...

In my heart...
HISHO!
...love is accumulating by the fraction of a second

When you become aware of it, the heart is changing its color...
and in the twinkling of an eye this colour overwhelms it totally
2 days later...

The 98th Himiko-sama passed away
The 99th Himiko-sama saw herself entrusted with the responsibility of the High Priestess
She was only 10 and the Yatsuka no ken protected her
Does sadness accumulate as much as the flowers falling to the ground?

It accumulates till the day
LOOK! HISHO I MADE A SNOW RABBIT!
KOSUMO CALM DOWN A BIT AND GET INSIDE
Where? not yet!
the heart is blank
...but still has to continue seeing the seasons pass?


Yes, the feelings are accumulating...
like the snow, like the flowers on the ground...
And the snow is piling up...rEnd

Vocabulary:

Calpis Water common drink made out of water, milk and juice

Hishô /Himiko Himiko's protectors all ought to have a name starting with "hi", in honour of the daylight star. In Japanese the words day and sun are pronounced "hi". Yet Himiko is the representative of Amaterasu, the Goddess of Light, the sun and the day. Hishô means thus "Light of the Sun" and Himiko "Priestess of the Sun"

Namu Amida Butsu classic pity incantantion made to Buddha Amida and whose goal is the rebirth of Amida in paradise (Namu=greetings, Amida is the name of Buddha, Butsu=Buddha). Possible translations: "In the name of the Buddha Amida..."

Namu Myôhô Renge Kyô another classic incantatory formula belonging to the most important Sûtra of Buddhism. Its recitation is supposed to bring happiness, good health, wealth... Possible translation: "in the name of the lotus Sûtra..."

Nagamushi Variety of poisonous serpents

Omiwatari Suwa is a town of the Nagano prefecture. Its temple, the Taijinsha Suwa, is one of the oldest and most visited of the prefecture. Legend says that two kamis honoured there are married, but a lake separates their respective temples (Lake Suwa). When the husband – Takeminakata - was separated from his wife -Yasakatome - he missed her so much that he joined her one winter day by crossing the frozen lake. When the temperature drops below -10° C for several days, the ice of this lake, because of the contraction and expansion, breaks and may rise 1 metre above surface. People believe it happens when the two kamis meet and they call it the omiwatari (The passing of the Gods)

Tsukuyomi (or Tsukiyomi) Moon God, brother of Amaterasu and Susanoo

Yata no kagami the sacred mirror, the divine mirror. It's one of the three great imperial treasures of Japan and is kept in the Ise Temple

Yuki no miya "The Snow Temple"

Annex:

The imperial regalia
The imperial regalia are the three divine treasures of Japan. They are possessions of the imperial house to which they are supposed to bring happiness and prosperity, but are placed under the protection of several temples. They are called the Sanshû no jingi, that's to say the "three sacred treasures". Those are Amaterasu's mirror, Susanoo's sword and the yasakani magatamas.

Yata no kagami = Amaterasu's sacred mirror
It's the symbol of divine power accorded to the emperor. The mirror indicates the purity of the soul, of the mind without taint. It bestows religious supremacy on the emperor.

It's kept in the great Ise Temple. It's a bronze mirror, its shape an eight-petal flower.

According to the legend, Amaterasu's mirror in which was reflected the episode of her leaving the cave does exist. She is said to have offered it directly to her grandson, the ancestor of the imperial bloodline, Emperor Ninigi, to go reign on Earth. While entrusting it to him, she told him: "Each time you look into the mirror, it'll be as if seeing Myself". Ninigi was Japan's first sovereign; he passed on this mirror to his descendants until it reached Jimmu, the country's first emperor.

Ame no murakumo no tsurugi "the cloud-gathering saber", also called Kusanagi no tsurugi, "the grass-mower saber"
It's a symbol of power and strength. It gives the emperor military supremacy. It's kept in Nagoya, in the Atsuta Temple.

Susanoo found this saber in the tail of an 8-headed dragon-snake he fought when he arrived on earth after having been banned from the Sky's High Plains. His victory allowed him to "win" over his wife, Kushi Hinada. He entrusted his saber to Amaterasu's care who gave it in her turn to her grandson Ninigi to reign on Earth.

This sword is said to have been lost during a famous battle on water in 1185 (in Dan no Ura), then recovered and entrusted to the Atsuta Temple. The sword supposedly disappeared in the bombing of 1945.

Yasaka(ni) no magatama
Those are the symbols of shrewdness. They confer civil power to the emperor.

They are jewels in form of claws or pierced fangs. It's difficult to say what they're made of: "curved pearls", "stones" (precious or not), "gems", etc. In short, they have differently and rather blurry designations but in any case, those jewels are supposed to be the place where a kami is living. Two "associated" magatamas, that is to say "embedded" in one another, are forming a circle that "the yin and yang philosophy" frequently picks up as symbol in black and white.

Legend says that these pearls were from Amaterasu's 5 necklaces she received from her father Izanagi before coming to earth, thrown out by his father. Susanoo paid a visit to Amaterasu. To prove that he wouldn't harm her, he fathered for her 5 male kamis by blowing on the 5 necklaces. Amaterasu, as proof of his faith, also mothered for him 3 female kamis by blowing on her brother's saber she broke beforehand in 3 pieces. Each took the children back that his good created.

Susanoo succeeded so to descend upon earth in company of 3 celestial Goddesses and to leave 5 sons in the High Plains of the Sky. He thus established a link between Earth and the Sky which turned his status of banned person to the one of Heavens' ally.

The End

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Towa Kamo Shirenai

by Michiyo Akaishi

Volume 08 chapter 04

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